

Men and Heart Disease Fact Sheet



Facts on Men and Heart Disease

- In 2002, 340,933 men died from heart disease, the leading cause of death for men in the United States.¹
- The age-adjusted death rate for heart disease in men was 297 per 100,000 population in 2002.¹
- About 8.9% of all white men, 7.4% of black men, and 5.6% of Mexican American men live with coronary heart disease.²
- The average age of a first heart attack for men is 66 years.²
- Almost half of men who have a heart attack under age 65 die within 8 years.⁴
- Results from the Framingham Heart Study suggest that men have a 49% lifetime risk of developing coronary heart disease after the age of 40.⁴
- Between 70 and 89% of sudden cardiac events occur in men.⁴
- Major risk factors for heart disease include high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, tobacco use, diabetes, physical inactivity, and poor nutrition.⁵
- Studies suggest that a 10% decrease in total cholesterol levels may reduce the development of coronary heart disease by almost 30%.³

For this fact sheet, the term “heart disease” refers to the broadest category of “disease of the heart” as defined by the International Classification of Diseases and used by CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics. This category includes acute rheumatic fever, chronic rheumatic heart disease, hypertensive heart disease, coronary heart disease, pulmonary heart disease, congestive heart failure, and any other heart condition or disease.

CDC Activities to Reduce the Burden of Heart Disease among Men

CDC's Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program

CDC currently funds health departments in 32 states and the District of Columbia to develop, implement, and evaluate programs that promote heart-healthy and stroke-free communities; prevent and control heart disease, stroke, and their risk factors; and eliminate disparities among populations. These programs emphasize the use of education, policies, environmental strategies, and systems changes to address heart disease and stroke in various settings and to ensure quality of care. For more information, visit http://www.cdc.gov/cvh/state_program/index.htm.

Maps of Heart Disease and Stroke Mortality Among Women and Men

The interactive maps present heart disease and stroke mortality rates, county-by-county, for the state, racial/ethnic group, and gender of your choice. These maps provide valuable information for health professionals and concerned citizens at the local, state, and national levels to identify the communities of women and men with the greatest burden of heart disease and to design heart disease prevention programs and policies tailored to the needs of those communities. <http://www.cdc.gov/cvh/maps/statemaps.htm>.

For More Information

For more information on men and heart disease, visit the following Web sites:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program](#)
- [American Heart Association*](#)
- [National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute](#)

References

1. National Center for Health Statistics. Health, United States, 2005 with chartbook on the Health of Americans. Hyattsville, MD: 2005.
2. American Heart Association. Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics—2005 Update. Dallas, Texas: American Heart Association, 2005.
3. Cohen, JD. A population-based approach to cholesterol control. American Journal of Medicine 1997; 102:23–25.
4. Hurst W. The Heart, Arteries, and Veins. 10th ed. New York, New York: McGraw-Hill; 2002.
5. Preventing chronic diseases: Investing wisely in health preventing heart disease and stroke. July 2005. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. February 6, 2006. <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/publications/factsheets/Prevention/cvh.htm>

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